



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The Patent Office
Concept House
Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP10 8QQ

REC'D 18 OCT 2004

WIPO PCT

I, the undersigned, being an officer duly authorised in accordance with Section 74(1) and (4) of the Deregulation & Contracting Out Act 1994, to sign and issue certificates on behalf of the Comptroller-General, hereby certify that annexed hereto is a true copy of the documents as originally filed in connection with the patent application identified therein.

I also certify that the attached copy of the request for grant of a Patent (Form 1/77) bears an amendment, effected by this office, following a request by the applicant and agreed to by the Comptroller-General.

In accordance with the Patents (Companies Re-registration) Rules 1982, if a company named in this certificate and any accompanying documents has re-registered under the Companies Act 1980 with the same name as that with which it was registered immediately before re-registration save for the substitution as, or inclusion as, the last part of the name of the words "public limited company" or their equivalents in Welsh, references to the name of the company in this certificate and any accompanying documents shall be treated as references to the name with which it is so re-registered.

In accordance with the rules, the words "public limited company" may be replaced by p.l.c., plc, P.L.C. or PLC.

Re-registration under the Companies Act does not constitute a new legal entity but merely subjects the company to certain additional company law rules.

**PRIORITY
DOCUMENT**
SUBMITTED OR TRANSMITTED IN
COMPLIANCE WITH RULE 17.1(a) OR (b)

Signed

Dated 7 October 2004

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Patents Form 1/77

Patents Act 1977
(Rule 16)

THE PATENT OFFICE
WM

24 SEP 2003

RECEIVED BY FAX

1/77

The Patent Office

Cardiff Road
Newport
South Wales
NP10 8QQ

Request for grant of a patent

(See the notes on the back of this form. You can also get an explanatory leaflet from the Patent Office to help you fill in this form.)

1. Your reference

GML2881 CUM

24SEP03 E839622-2 002806
P01/7700 0.00-0322353.4

2. Patent application number

(The Patent Office will fill in this part)

0322353.4

3. Full name, address and postcode of the or of each applicant (underline all surnames)

RCV Engines Limited
6 Haviland Road
Fernidown Industrial Estate
Wimborne
Dorset
BH21 7RF

24 SEP 2003

7988772002

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

If the applicant is a corporate body, give the country/state of its incorporation

4. Title of the invention

COOLING MECHANISMS FOR ROTARY
VALVE CYLINDER ENGINES

5. Name of your agent (if you have one)

"Address for service" in the United Kingdom to which all correspondence should be sent (including the postcode)

BARKER BRETELL
Medina Chambers
Town Quay
Southampton SO14 2AQ
GB-

JENKIN & SON,
366-368 OLD STREET,
LONDON,
EC1V 9LT

EPS/1
26/7/03
JULY

Patents ADP number (if you know it)

07442494001 ✓ 968001

6. If you are declaring priority from one or more earlier patent applications, give the country and the date of filing of the or of each of these earlier applications and (if you know it) the or each application number

Country

Priority application number
(if you know it)Date of filing
(day / month / year)

7. If this application is divided or otherwise derived from an earlier UK application, give the number and the filing date of the earlier application

Number of earlier application

Date of filing
(day / month / year)8. Is a statement of inventorship and of right to grant of a patent required in support of this request? (Answer 'Yes' if:
a) my applicant named in part 3 is not an inventor, or
b) there is an inventor who is not named as an applicant, or
c) my named applicant is a corporate body.
See note (d))

YES

Patents Form 1/77

Patents Form 1/77

9. Enter the number of sheets for any of the following items you are filing with this form.
Do not count copies of the same document

Continuation sheets of this form

Description 18

Claim(s) - *W*

Abstract -

Drawing(s) 3 *abc*

10. If you are also filing any of the following, state how many against each item.

Priority documents

Translations of priority documents

Statement of inventorship and right to grant of a patent (Patents Form 7/77)

Request for preliminary examination and search (Patents Form 9/77)

Request for substantive examination (Patents Form 10/77)

Any other documents
(please specify)

11.

I/We request the grant of a patent on the basis of this application.

Signature *R. Barker*

Date

24.09.2003

12. Name and daytime telephone number of person to contact in the United Kingdom

Geoffrey M Lomas
Telephone: 023 8033 6970

Warning

After an application for a patent has been filed, the Comptroller of the Patent Office will consider whether publication or communication of the invention should be prohibited or restricted under Section 22 of the Patents Act 1977. You will be informed if it is necessary to prohibit or restrict your invention in this way. Furthermore, if you live in the United Kingdom, Section 23 of the Patents Act 1977 stops you from applying for a patent abroad without first getting written permission from the Patent Office unless an application has been filed at least 6 weeks beforehand in the United Kingdom for a patent for the same invention and either no direction prohibiting publication or communication has been given, or any such direction has been revoked.

Notes

- a) If you need help to fill in this form or you have any questions, please contact the Patent Office on 08459 500505.
- b) Write your answers in capital letters using black ink or you may type them.
- c) If there is not enough space for all the relevant details on any part of this form, please continue on a separate sheet of paper and write "see continuation sheet" in the relevant part(s). Any continuation sheet should be attached to this form.
- d) If you have answered 'Yes' Patents Form 7/77 will need to be filed.
- e) Once you have filled in the form you must remember to sign and date it.
- f) For details of the fee and ways to pay please contact the Patent Office.

COOLING MECHANISMS FOR ROTARY VALVE CYLINDER ENGINES

The present invention relates to cooling mechanisms for rotary valve cylinder engines.

- 5 A rotary valve cylinder engine comprises a rotary valve cylinder having an internal combustion chamber formed with a valve port, and an outer cylindrical element formed with at least an inlet valve port and an exhaust valve port. The rotary valve cylinder is disposed within the outer cylindrical element and is rotatable relative to the outer cylindrical element to a position in which the rotary valve cylinder valve port is aligned with either the inlet or exhaust valve port of the outer cylindrical element. When so aligned an inlet charge, or exhaust gas, can flow through the aligned ports into or out of the combustion chamber of the rotary valve cylinder.
- 10
- 15 Whilst the rotary valve cylinder engine has now been proven to be a practical engine design, in early versions of the engine it has been found that the volumetric efficiency of the engine can be comparatively low. We have discovered that this is mainly due to excessive heating of the inlet charge by the inlet manifold and rotary valve cylinder. In addition some components within the engine were found to be getting excessively hot, in particular the rotary valve cylinder. As a result it has been found that to optimise the performance of the rotary valve cylinder engine, the rotary valve cylinder must be kept as cool as possible.
- 20
- 25 It has been proposed in earlier versions of the engine to carry out the cooling by pumping oil through the outer cylindrical valve element of the engine, and over the lower external surfaces of the rotary valve cylinder.

However this cooling system not only provided inadequate cooling of the rotary valve cylinder, it also caused significant problems with oil leaks leading to excessive oil consumption.

According to a first aspect of the invention there is provided a cooling mechanism for a rotary valve cylinder engine comprising a rotary valve cylinder rotatably mounted within an outer cylindrical valve element, the rotary valve cylinder and the outer cylindrical valve element each being formed with a respective valve port, the rotary valve cylinder being rotatable relative to the outer cylindrical valve element to a position in which the ports are aligned, the cooling mechanism comprising at least one passage formed in the rotary valve cylinder through which, in use, cooling oil flows.

Preferably the rotary valve cylinder comprises a cylindrical cylinder wall in which the oil cooling passage is formed.

15 Preferably the oil cooling passage in the rotary cylinder wall extends substantially along the length of the rotary cylinder wall.

Preferably the oil cooling passage extends in a direction substantially parallel to the rotational axis of the rotary valve cylinder.

20 Preferably the rotary valve cylinder is formed with a plurality of oil cooling passages.

Preferably the oil cooling passages, when viewed in plan, that is when viewed along the axis of rotation of the rotary valve cylinder, extend substantially around the circumference of the rotary valve cylinder wall.

Preferably the oil cooling passages in the rotary cylinder are substantially equispaced around the circumference of the rotary cylinder.

Alternatively the oil cooling passage or passages are defined between an inner cylinder which is received within an outer cylinder to together

- 5 define the rotary valve cylinder, at least one of the inner or outer cylinders being formed with a groove or grooves which defines the oil cooling passage or passages.

Preferably the oil is fed to the rotary valve cylinder by passageways formed within the outer cylindrical valve element.

- 10 Preferably the rotary valve cylinder comprises a circular top surface which closes one end of the rotary valve cylinder to define a combustion chamber between the underside of the top surface and the top of a piston located inside the rotary valve cylinder, the cooling oil being forced over the circular top surface of the rotary valve cylinder to cool the circular top surface of the rotary valve cylinder.

Preferably an upper part of the rotary valve cylinder is formed with at least one channel or channels around the periphery of the circular top surface through which, in use, the cooling oil flows.

- 20 Preferably an upper oil cooling chamber is formed adjacent the circular top surface of the rotary valve cylinder.

Preferably the oil cooling passage or passages in the wall of the rotary valve cylinder communicate with the upper oil cooling chamber via the channel or channels formed in the upper part of the rotary valve cylinder.

Preferably the oil cooling passage or passages in the wall of the rotary valve cylinder communicate with the upper oil cooling chamber at the periphery of the upper oil cooling chamber.

Preferably, in use, the cooling oil enters the rotary cylinder at an upper 5 end of the rotary valve cylinder at a position adjacent the top surface of the rotary valve cylinder.

Preferably the cooling oil exits from a lower end of the rotary valve cylinder at a position distal from the circular top surface of the rotary valve cylinder.

10 Preferably the oil enters the rotary valve cylinder at a feed point at the top surface of the rotary valve cylinder, an oil seal being provided immediately below the oil feed point, the oil seal, in use, resisting any oil flow from the oil feed point into the region of the valve port of the rotary valve cylinder.

15 Preferably the oil enters the top surface of the rotary valve cylinder through a channel formed in a boss that is of smaller diameter than the outer diameter of the rotary valve cylinder. This enables the use of a smaller diameter oil seal than would otherwise be possible.

20 Preferably the upper oil cooling chamber is positioned between the boss and the top surface of the rotary valve cylinder so that the oil flows down through the channel formed in the boss so as to flow within the inner diameter of the oil seal, and into the upper oil cooling chamber.

25 Preferably the upper oil cooling chamber is formed by a substantially hollow plug at the top surface of the rotary valve cylinder, the periphery of the top plug being sealed against the periphery of the top surface of

the rotary valve cylinder, the oil cooling chamber being defined between the walls and ceiling of the plug and the top surface of the rotary valve cylinder.

Preferably, in use, the oil flows through the upper oil cooling chamber so 5 as to directly contact the top surface of the rotary valve cylinder to provide direct cooling of the top surface of the rotary valve cylinder, which in turn cools the combustion chamber roof.

Preferably the outer cylindrical valve element is provided with cooling 10 means operative to transfer thermal energy from the oil to the outer cylindrical valve element and into the air surrounding the second cylindrical valve element.

Preferably the cooling means comprises at least one fin extending 15 outwardly from the outer cylindrical valve element. Most preferably the cooling means comprises a plurality of fins that are relatively spaced around part of the outer cylindrical valve element.

Preferably the oil passageways formed in the outer cylindrical valve element are adjacent the cooling means to maximise the transfer of thermal energy from the oil to the outer cylindrical valve element and to the air surrounding the outer cylindrical valve element.

20 Preferably the oil passageways formed in the outer cylindrical valve element are substantially equispaced around the outer cylindrical valve element. This increases the transfer of thermal energy from the oil to the outer cylindrical valve element and to the air surrounding the outer cylindrical valve element.

Alternatively the outer cylindrical valve element is provided with cooling means operative to transfer thermal energy from the oil to a liquid cooling medium contained in a jacket formed in the outer cylindrical valve element.

5 Preferably the jacket is adjacent the oil passageways formed in the outer cylindrical valve element.

Preferably the liquid cooling medium is a water based cooling medium.

According to a second aspect of the invention there is provided a cooling mechanism for a rotary valve cylinder engine comprising a rotary valve cylinder rotatably mounted within an outer cylindrical valve element, the rotary valve cylinder and the outer cylindrical valve element each being formed with a respective valve port, the rotary valve cylinder being rotatable relative to the outer cylindrical valve element to a position in which the ports are aligned, the cooling mechanism comprising a heat sink mounted directly to an upper part of the rotary valve cylinder so as to rotate with the rotary valve cylinder, the heat sink being otherwise exposed to the open air.

20 Preferably the heat sink comprises a separate component mounted directly to the top of the rotary valve cylinder. Alternatively the heat sink is formed integrally with the rotary valve cylinder so that the heat sink and rotary valve cylinder together comprise a single component.

Preferably the upper part of the rotary valve cylinder comprises a circular top surface below which is provided a combustion chamber.

25 Preferably to maximise the heat transferred to the heat sink, the diameter of the part of the circular top surface of the rotary valve cylinder to

which the heat sink is attached is at least 50% of the external diameter of the rotary valve cylinder.

Preferably the base of the heat sink is at least 50% of the external diameter of the rotary valve cylinder. Most preferably to maximise the 5 heat transferred to the heat sink, the diameter of the part of the top surface of the rotary valve cylinder to which the heat sink is attached is at least 75% of the external diameter of the rotary valve cylinder.

Preferably the rotary valve cylinder is mounted on the outer cylindrical valve element by bearing means, the bearing means being positioned 10 distal from the upper part of the rotary valve cylinder so that the valve port formed in the rotary valve cylinder is between the upper part and the bearing means. It will be appreciated that this enables the diameter of the upper surface of the rotary valve cylinder to which the heat sink can be attached to be as large as possible, and enables the distance between 15 the upper surface of the rotary valve cylinder to which the heat sink is attached, and the combustion chamber, to be as small as possible.

Preferably the bearing means comprises two relatively spaced bearings.

Preferably one of the two bearings is located below but adjacent the valve port of the rotary valve cylinder, whilst the other bearing is located 20 at a lower part of the rotary valve cylinder distal from the valve port of the rotary valve cylinder. This maximises the support provided by the bearing means.

According to a third aspect of the invention there is provided a cooling mechanism for a rotary valve cylinder engine comprising a rotary valve 25 cylinder rotatably mounted within an outer cylindrical valve element, the rotary valve cylinder and the outer cylindrical valve element each being

formed with a respective valve port, the rotary valve cylinder being rotatable relative to the outer cylindrical valve element to a position in which the ports are aligned, the cooling mechanism comprising thermal insulation means at an inner surface of the valve port formed on the outer cylindrical valve element, the thermal insulation means being operative to minimise the thermal energy transferred between the outer cylindrical valve element and any gas flowing through the port.

5 Preferably the valve port formed in the second cylindrical valve element comprises an inner surface against which the gas would ordinarily flow,
10 the thermal insulation means substantially covering the inner surface such that the gas instead flows against the thermal insulation means.

Preferably the inner surface of the valve port is of rectangular transverse cross section, that is, when viewed along the longitudinal axis of the valve port.

15 Preferably a manifold is provided to convey gas to or from the valve port in the outer cylindrical valve element, the thermal insulation means comprising a protrusion on the inlet manifold which protrudes into the valve port towards the rotary valve cylinder.

20 Preferably the protrusion extends into the valve port towards the rotary valve cylinder so as to be adjacent but not in contact with the rotary valve cylinder.

25 Preferably the protrusion is spaced from the inner surface of the valve port so that a small air gap is provided between the radially outer surface of the protrusion and the inner surface of the inlet port, the air providing further thermal insulation between the gas and the outer cylindrical valve element.

Preferably the manifold is mounted on the outer cylindrical valve element by mounting means formed from a thermally insulating material.

Instead of the manifold and protrusion, the thermal insulation means can alternatively be formed from a separate tubular component made from a thermally insulating material, said tubular component being adapted to be received in the valve port so as to substantially cover the inner surface of the valve port.

Preferably the outer cylindrical valve element is formed with an inlet valve port and an exhaust valve port, thermal insulation means being provided on both ports so as to reduce heat transfer from the outer cylindrical valve element to the inlet gas through the inlet valve port, and to reduce heat transfer from the exhaust gas to the outer cylindrical valve element through the exhaust port.

The invention will now be described by way of example only with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a cross sectional side view of a rotary cylinder valve engine provided with a cooling mechanism in accordance with the current invention;

20 **Figure 2** is a cross sectional top view of the rotary cylinder valve engine of Figure 1 taken through line A-A; and

Figure 3 is a cross sectional side view of another rotary cylinder valve engine provided with cooling mechanisms in accordance with the current invention.

Referring initially to figures 1 and 2, a rotary valve cylinder engine 1 comprises a rotary valve cylinder 3 comprising a cylindrical outer wall 4 having an open lower end 5 and a closed upper end 6. The under-surface of the closed upper end 6 comprises the ceiling of a combustion chamber 7 defined within the rotary valve cylinder 3. The rotary valve cylinder 3 is rotatably mounted within a fixed outer cylindrical valve element 8 that is formed with an inlet valve port 51 and an exhaust valve port 71. The outer cylindrical valve element 8 comprises a cylinder head of the engine.

10 The rotary valve cylinder 3 is formed with a single valve port 81 in communication with the combustion chamber 7, the rotary valve cylinder 3 being rotatable to a position in which the single port is aligned with either the inlet or the exhaust port 51, 71 of the cylinder head 8. A piston assembly reciprocates within the rotary valve cylinder 3, the combustion chamber 7 being defined between the top of the piston of the piston assembly and the under surface of the closed upper end 6.

A cylindrical top cap 9 has a radially outwardly extending peripheral flange 10 that secures the top cap 9 to the cylinder head 8 so as to seal the rotary cylinder valve 3 within the cylinder head 8. Such an engine is well known.

20 The rotary valve cylinder 3 is formed with internal oil cooling passages 11 which comprise bores that extend through the length of the rotary cylinder wall 4. The ends of the passages 11 that are remote from the upper closed end 6 of the rotary valve cylinder 3 are in communication with an oil sump 12 at the base of the engine. This communication occurs via a void at the base of the crank case and into which the oil from the passages 11 enters. The void is located above the sump 12 and the oil from the void then flows into the sump 12. The

other ends of the passages 11 extend through the closed upper end 6 of the rotary valve cylinder 3 so as to be in communication with the exterior of the rotary valve cylinder 3. The oil cooling passages 11 are equispaced within the cylinder wall 4 so that, when viewed in plan, the 5 passages 11 are equispaced about the circumference of the rotary valve cylinder 3 as can be seen in Figure 2.

A hollow, substantially cylindrical plug 14 is provided and comprises a cylindrical base 15 and a cylindrical boss 16 extending from the base 15. The cylindrical base 15 is secured to the closed upper end 6 of the rotary 10 valve cylinder 3 to define an upper oil chamber 17 between the plug 14 and the top surface of the upper end 6 of the rotary valve cylinder 3. The periphery of the plug 15 sealingly engages the periphery of the top surface of the rotary valve cylinder 3 using an O-ring 18 or the like.

The plug 14 is formed with a plurality of channels 19 which extend 15 through the base 15 and boss 16 of the plug 14 in a direction parallel with the longitudinal axis of the plug 14. The channels 19 are in communication with the passages 11 formed in the rotary valve cylinder 3. An annular cavity 21 is defined between the top of the plug 14 and an upper rotational bearing 23 which is mounted in the top 20 cap 9. A lower rotational bearing 26 is provided at the lower end of the rotary valve cylinder 3, the rotary valve cylinder 3 being mounted on both rotational bearings 23, 26. An upper oil seal 33 is provided above the upper rotational bearing 23 and the radially outer surface of oil seal 33 is secured to the inside of the body of the top cap 9. The radially 25 inner surface of the oil seal 33 sealingly engages an uppermost end of the rotary valve cylinder 3.

An annular oil seal 25 is located in the annular cavity 21, a radially outer surface of the oil seal 25 being secured to the internal sides of the flange

10 of the top cap 9. A radially inner sealing surface of the oil seal sealingly bears against the boss 16 of the plug 14 to prevent oil from leaking from the annular cavity 21 and around the outside of the rotary valve cylinder 3. Because the radially inner sealing surface of the 5 annular oil seal 25 bears against the relatively small diameter boss 16 of the plug 14, the oil seal 25 can itself be made of relatively small diameter so as to keep the sealing area of the radially inner sealing surface of the oil seal 25 to a minimum. This reduces the cost of the oil seal 25 and also reduces the frictional losses that occur through the 10 sealing engagement of the radially inner sealing surface of the oil seal 25 with boss 16 of the plug 14.

The annular cavity 21 is in communication with linking passages 27 formed in the top cap 9, the linking passages 27 extending into passageways 28 formed in the cylinder head 8 which lead to an annular 15 recess 29 defined at the base of the cylinder head 8. The annular recess 29 is in communication with the sump 12 in the base of the engine. The passageways 28 are equispaced, when viewed in plan, about the circumference of the cylinder head 8 as can best be seen in Figure 2.

The cylinder head 8 is provided with cooling means comprising a 20 plurality of equispaced, radially outwardly extending cooling fins 30 which are exposed to the air surrounding the engine.

In use, oil is pumped from the oil sump 12 by an oil pump (not shown) into the annular recess 29 at the base of the cylinder head 8. Oil then passes up through the oil passageways 28 in the cylinder head 8. Fig 2 25 shows that the oil passageways 28 are close to the cooling fins 30. As the oil flows near the fins 30, heat is passed from the oil to the cooling fins 30 and thence to cooling air being forced over the cooling fins 30, this air flow being either due to a fan (not shown) or the movement of the

engine when, for example, mounted in a vehicle. It is understood that a second cooling medium, for example water, could be passed over the fins 30 to conduct heat away.

5 The oil then passes through the linking passages 27 in the top cap 9 and thence radially inwardly into the annular cavity 21 at the top of the rotary valve cylinder 3. The oil lubricates the upper cylinder bearing 23. The upper oil seal 33 prevents oil from leaking from the top of the engine and the annular oil seal 25 prevents oil from leaking down the sides of the rotary valve cylinder 3 and into the region of the valve port.

10 Because the annular oil seal 25 seals against the relatively small diameter of the boss 16 of the plug 14, the oil seal 25 has a significantly smaller internal diameter than the external diameter of the valve seal 35 which seals the periphery of the valve port in the rotary valve cylinder 3 against the cylinder head 8. This reduces frictional losses in the oil seal 25.

15 The oil then passes through the channels 19 in the top plug 14 and into the upper oil chamber 17. Oil in the upper oil chamber 17 cools the closed upper end 6 of the rotary valve cylinder 3 and thus conducts heat away from the combustion chamber 7.

20 The oil then flows into the oil cooling passages 11 formed in the cylinder rotary valve cylinder wall 4, towards the base of the rotary valve cylinder 3 so as to cool the rotary valve cylinder 3. The oil then flows back to the oil sump 12.

Whilst the above describe in detail a cooling mechanism where the oil is fed into the top of the rotary valve cylinder 3 and exits from the base of the rotary valve cylinder 3, it is understood that it would be possible, 25 with suitable oil feed means to the base of the rotary valve cylinder 3, to

feed the oil through the rotary valve cylinder 3 in the reverse direction, that is to feed oil in at the base of the rotary valve cylinder 3, the oil then flowing through the upper oil chamber 17, exiting through the upper closed end 6 of the rotary valve cylinder 3 and flowing back down 5 through the oil cooling passages 27 in the top cap 9 and the passageways 28 in the cylinder head 8 to return to the sump 12.

The improvements described above cool the rotary valve cylinder 3 directly. This both improves cooling of the rotary valve cylinder 3 and also simplifies and improves the oil control method required for the 10 engine.

Referring now to Figure 3, another embodiment of a rotary cylinder valve engine is shown with like features being given like references.

In this embodiment the cooling passages 11, linking passages 27, the passageways 28, cylinder head fins 30, the top cap 9 and the oil sump 12 15 are omitted.

The rotational bearings 23, 26 in this embodiment, are both positioned below the upper closed end 6 of the rotary valve cylinder 3 and below the valve port formed in the rotary valve cylinder 3. Thus the upper bearing 23 is below but adjacent the valve port, whilst the lower 20 bearing 26 is positioned towards the base of the rotary valve cylinder 3. The two bearings 23, 26 and the rotary valve cylinder 3 are assembled into the cylinder head 8 using a circlip and a bearing preload spring.

The top surface of the upper closed end 6 of the rotary valve cylinder 3 is radially inwardly tapered so as to define a concave recess 40 at the top 25 of the rotary valve cylinder 3. The spark plug 41 extends axially through

the base of the concave recess 40 and into the combustion chamber 7 of the engine.

In this embodiment the cooling mechanism comprises an external heatsink 43, which is directly attached to the closed upper end 6 of the 5 rotary valve cylinder 3 at the concave recess 40 so as to rotate with the rotary valve cylinder 3.

The heatsink 43 comprises a cylindrical body 44 having a plurality of annular flanges 45 which extend radially outwardly of the cylindrical body 44. Each flange 45 is spaced from adjacent flanges 45 so that the 10 flanges comprise cooling flanges. The base of the cylindrical body 44 tapers downwardly so as to be of a shape to mate directly with the conical recess 40 at the top of the rotary valve cylinder 3. Thus the heatsink 43 extends axially away from the upper closed end 6 of the rotary valve cylinder 3 whilst the flanges 45 extend radially outwardly so 15 as to be of a diameter greater than the diameter of the rotary valve cylinder 3. The heatsink 43 is thus of mushroom shaped transverse cross section.

Bolts 47 are provided to secure the heatsink 43 to the rotary valve cylinder 3 although any other suitable attachment means can alternatively 20 be provided. An annular oil seal 48 is provided between the heatsink 43 and the cylinder head 8, the oil seal 48 being located in an annular groove 49 formed in a lower flange 45 of the heatsink 43.

The heatsink 43 could alternatively be formed integrally with the rotary valve cylinder 3 so as to comprise an extension to the rotary valve 25 cylinder 3.

It is important that a good thermal joint is provided between the heatsink 43 and rotary valve cylinder 3. This can be accomplished by accurately matched mating surfaces and a suitable jointing compound.

The external rotating heatsink 43 is in free air, providing direct cooling means for the rotary valve cylinder 3. The air flow over the heatsink 43 is provided by a fan (not shown), propeller (not shown) or the movement of the engine if, for example, mounted in a vehicle, and is augmented by the rotating of the heatsink 43 with the rotary valve cylinder 3 which will increase thermal transmission to the air.

10 The heatsink 43 is in direct thermal contact with the rotary valve cylinder 3. The magnitude of the thermal contact area has been increased by the repositioning of the rotary valve cylinder bearings 23, 26, because this repositioning allows the upper closed end 6 of the rotary valve cylinder 3 to be free to accept the heatsink 43 over as large an area of the 15 rotary valve cylinder 3 as possible. This enhances the cooling function provided by the heat sink 43.

In addition, it will be appreciated that the thickness of the upper closed end 6 of the rotary valve cylinder 3 is minimised so that the distance between the combustion chamber 7 and the top surface of the closed 20 upper end 6 of the rotary valve cylinder 3 to which the heatsink 43 is attached is minimised.

In addition to the heatsink 43, the engine of Figure 3 comprises a further cooling mechanism for minimising thermal energy transfer across an inlet port or an exhaust port of the outer cylindrical valve element by 25 providing thermal insulation means that covers the inner surface of the port in question.

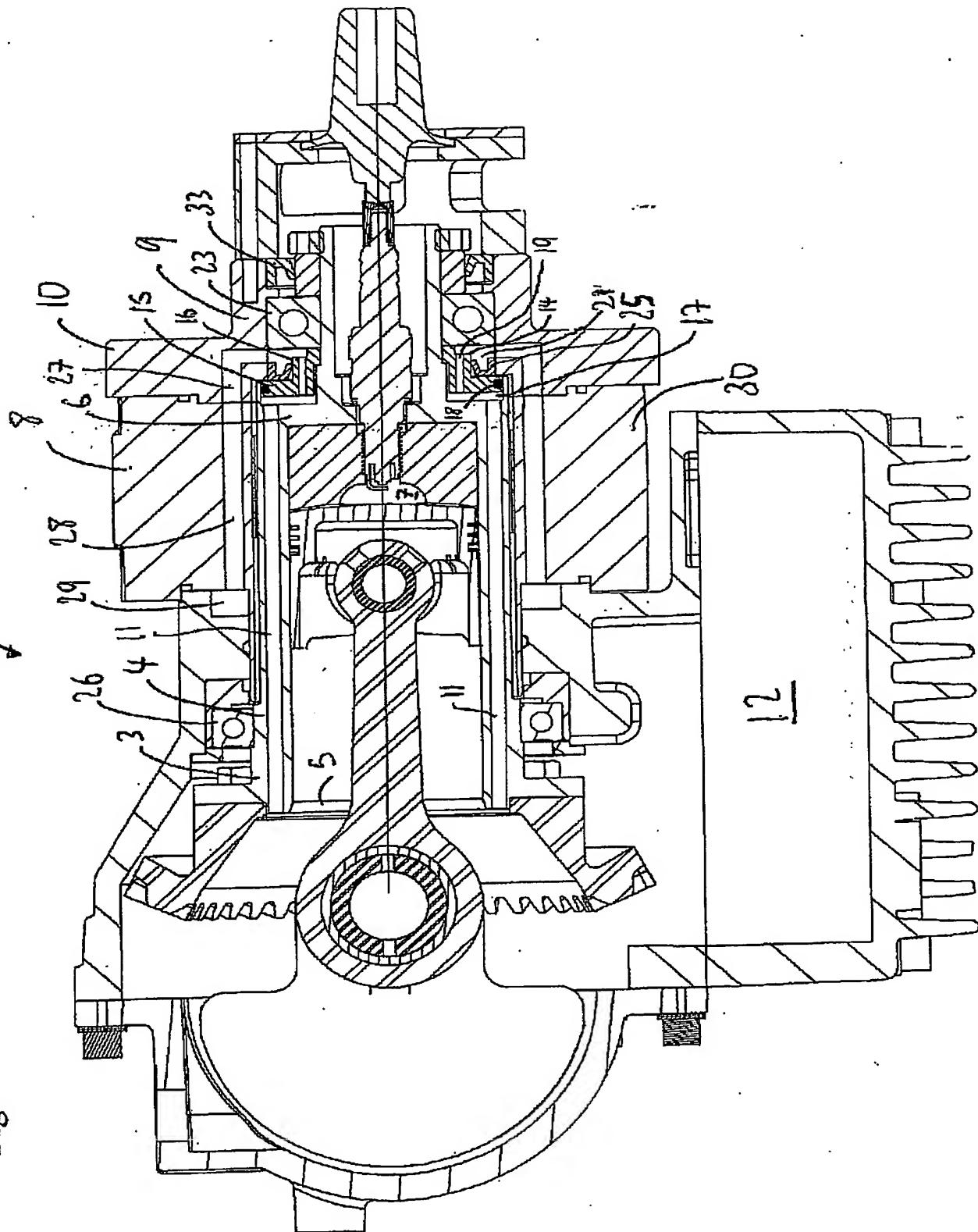
The example shown is for an inlet port formed in the cylinder head 8 and with which the valve port formed in the rotary valve cylinder 3 can be aligned. However the following description applies equally to any other port formed in the cylinder head 8 including the exhaust port.

- 5 An inlet manifold 50 is provided which is secured to the inlet valve port 51 and allows passage of inlet charge into the engine from a carburettor or other fuelling device (not shown). The inlet manifold 40 at the region of the inlet valve port 51 comprises a tubular region 53 of rectangular transverse cross section, formed with an external spigot 55 that abuts against a hollow, thermally insulating mounting block 57 that is secured to the cylinder head 8. This reduces direct thermal conduction from the cylinder head 8 to the inlet manifold 50. The mounting block 57 is made from a heat resistant plastic or other thermally insulating material.
- 10
- 15 A tubular protrusion 59, also of rectangular transverse cross section, of the inlet manifold 50 extends from the spigot 55 and protrudes into the inlet valve port 51 in the cylinder head 8. The protrusion 59 extends into the inlet valve port 51 as close to the rotary valve cylinder 3 as is mechanically feasible thus covering substantially all of the inner surface 61 of the inlet valve port 51. It will be appreciated that the valve port 51 and the inner surface 61 thereof are both of rectangular transverse cross section, that is when viewed along the longitudinal axis of the valve port 51. The width and height of the outside of the manifold protrusion 59 are less than the width and height of the inner surface 61 of the inlet valve port 51 such that a small air gap 63 is provided between the outside of the inlet manifold protrusion 59 and the inner surface 61 of the inlet port 51, this air gap 63 providing a thermal insulator.
- 20
- 25

In use, when fitted to the inlet port 51, the hollow insulating mounting block 57, the thermally insulating protrusion 59 and the thermally insulating air gap 63 minimise the thermal energy transferred to the inlet charge from the cylinder head 8 and other external engine components, 5 thus maximising the volumetric efficiency of the inlet charge.

When fitted to an exhaust port the tubular insulating block 57, the thermally insulating protrusion 59 and the thermally insulating air gap 63 minimise the thermal energy transferred to the cylinder head 8 and other external engine components from the exhaust charge, thus reducing the 10 cooling requirement of the engine. This reduces, in use, the overall temperature of the engine.

1



2/3

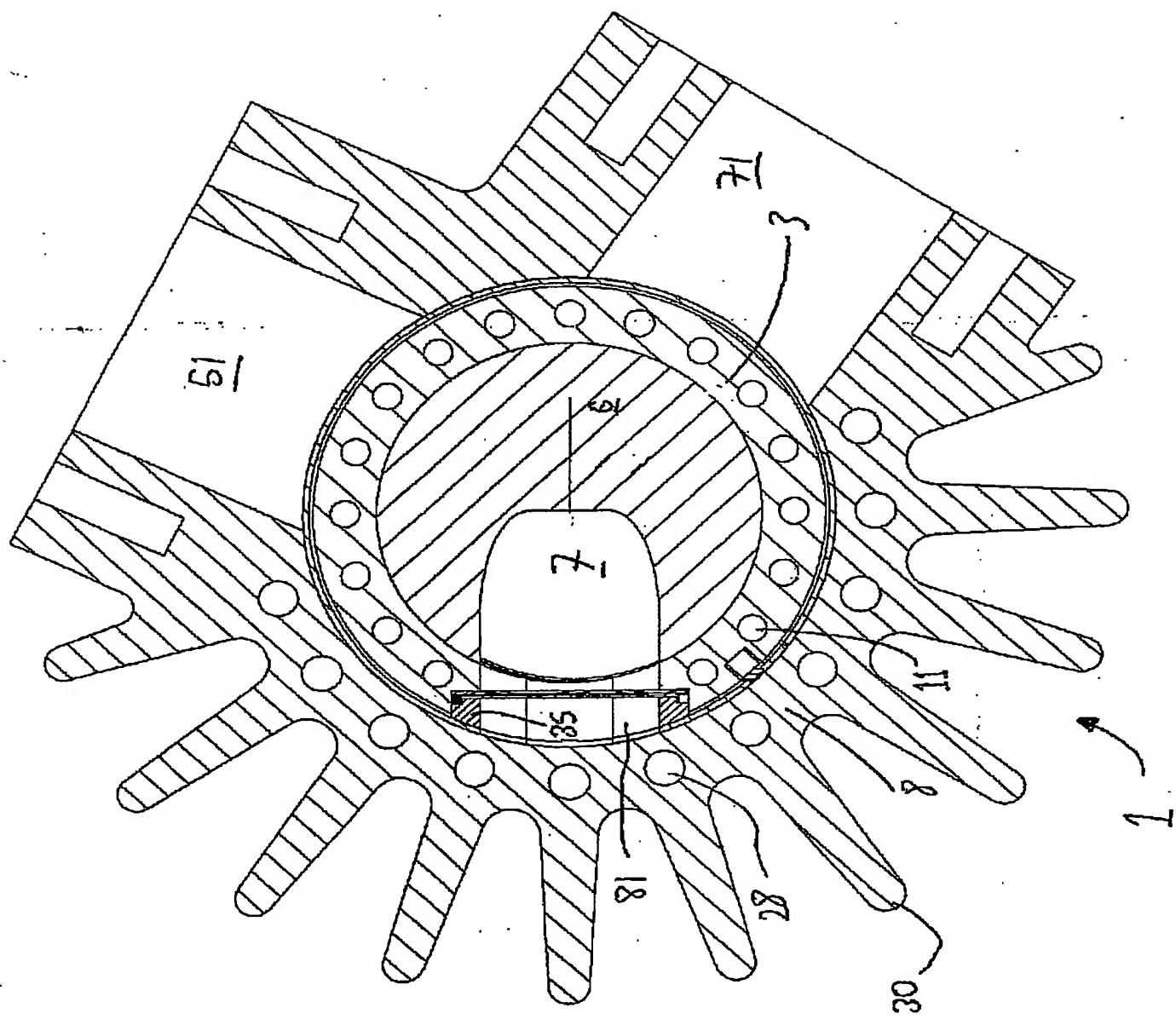


Fig 2.

3/3

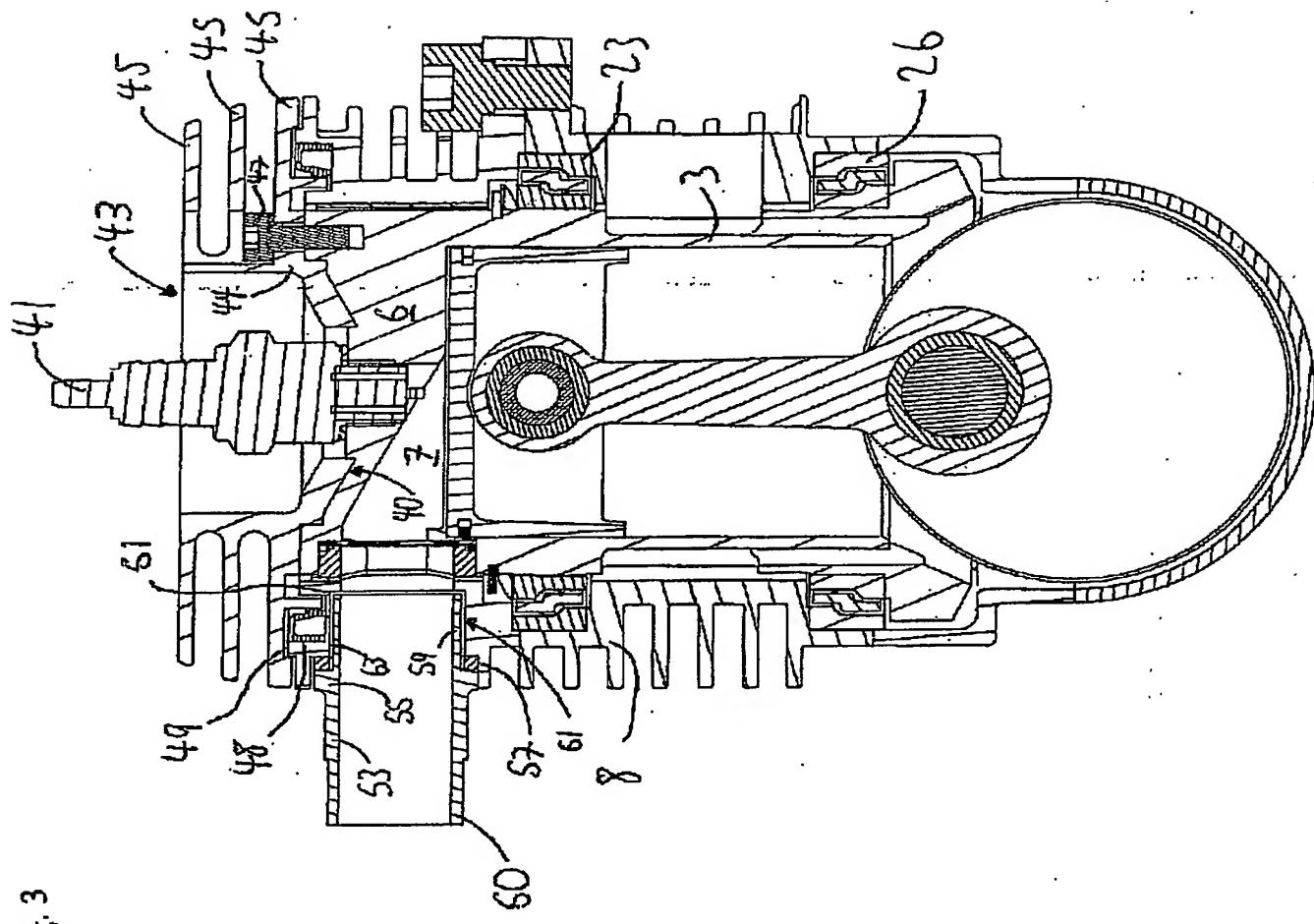
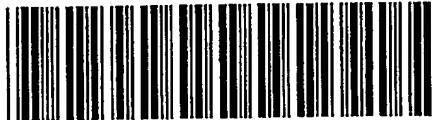


Fig. 3

PC1/GB2004/004016



**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- BLACK BORDERS**
- IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES**
- FADED TEXT OR DRAWING**
- BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING**
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES**
- COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS**
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS**
- LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT**
- REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY**
- OTHER:** _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.